



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.55

Subject: Transitional Living Services

Supersedes: None

Local Policy: No
Local Procedures: No
Training Required: No
Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes

Approved by:

Effective date: 01/01/05

Revision date:

Application

To All Department of Children's Services Employees

Authority: TCA 37-5-106; Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

Policy

Youth exiting custody at 18 or 19 years of age and not electing to receive voluntary services under post custody intake shall have access for services up to 23 years of age if making satisfactory progress in school, a training program and/or employment, targeted particularly at youth who may become homeless. Services are not limited to housing but include other areas related to successful transition to adulthood.

Procedures

A. Description of program

1. The Transitional Living Program is responsible for safety net services to prevent homelessness to youth who are former foster care youth. The services are voluntary and shall provide some level of services to all eligible youth.
2. The services available within the program are as follows:
 - a) Case Management
 - b) Crisis Intervention
 - c) Information and referral services
 - d) Educational planning

- e) Employability assistance
- f) GED Preparation
- g) Housing and Utility assistance
- h) Life Skills instructions

B. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for the transitional living program are as follows:

1. Youth 18-21 years of age and older who left care after age 14 and were in foster care for at least one year.
2. Youth under age 18 may be serviced if emancipated.
3. Youth who were in care (custody/voluntary services) any length of time from 17 to 23 years of age if making satisfactory progress with a letter grade of C or better.
4. Youth who aged-out of foster care at age 18 or afterwards are eligible for all transitional living services to include housing, utility assistance, transportation and training.
5. Youth who were adopted at age 16 or afterwards are eligible for all services except for housing and utility assistance. In rare exceptions and with the approval of the Director of Independent Living, these may also be offered.

C. Referral

1. A discharge conference will be held before a youth turns 18 or 19 years of age and at that time information is given to him/her regarding the transitional living/safety net program.
2. The information given must contain a description of the services available through the transitional living/safety net program. Youth will be provided wallet size yellow pages that list the contact information for all critical services in the area that they will reside in.

Forms

None

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

DCS Practice Model Standard - 8-108